NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #6 Highway 7&8 Transportation Corridor Planning and Class EA Study – Recommended Plan G.W.P. 13-00-00

STUDY OVERVIEW

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is undertaking the Highway 7&8 Transportation Corridor Planning and Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study, from Greater Stratford to the New Hamburg Area. The purpose of the study is to identify and address the long-term transportation needs for the Analysis Area and prepare a preliminary design for the provincial roadway components of the recommended plan.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #6

The public is invited to attend the final Public Information Centre (PIC) for the study which is being held to present the recommended plan and the evaluation of preliminary design alternatives. Refinements were made to the preliminary design alternatives based on stakeholder input received through the PIC #5 consultation process and through Preliminary Design as the corridor was defined in greater detail. PIC #6 is offered on three dates:

Wednesday July 24, 2013 Shakespeare & District Optimist Hall 3976 Galt Street, Shakespeare 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Thursday July 25, 2013 Stratford Rotary Complex, Community Hall B 353 McCarthy Road, Stratford 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Drop-in style open house format

Wednesday August 14, 2013 Wilmot Recreation Complex 1291 Nafziger Road, Baden 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



The recommended plan includes:

- Southerly bypass of Shakespeare adjacent to the existing GEXR railway corridor, revised to reduce impacts to the large woodlot east of Road 110 and agricultural field operations
- 2-lane cross-section from Highway 8 to Erie Street with a 5 m two-way centre left turn lane for Line 32 / Lorne Avenue
- 4-lane cross-section from Erie Street easterly to east study limit, including Erie Street southerly to Perth Line 29, with:
 5 m two-way centre left turn lane from Erie Street to west of Shakespeare bypass, from east of Shakespeare bypass to Wilmot / Easthope Road / RR 1 and on Erie Street southerly to Perth Line 29
 - 7 m median for Shakespeare bypass, from Wilmot / Easthope Road / RR 1 to west of Peel Street and from east of Hamilton Street to east study limit
- o 6-lane cross-section from west of Peel Street to east of Hamilton Street to serve these high-traffic at-grade intersections
- Full moves intersections controlled by traffic signals or stop signs on the crossing roads for majority of crossing roads with Walker Road revised to be a full moves intersection with stop signs on Walker Road
- Roundabouts at Perth Road 125 where Highway 7&8 changes direction
- Access to Shakespeare via a full moves intersection controlled by traffic signals at Road 107, a slip off provision for Highway 7&8 westbound traffic at the east limit of the village and retention of existing highway access at the west limit of the village
- Access to the east end of Stratford via a Road 109 connection between the south bypass and existing Highway 7&8
 Cul-de-sac at several intersections in Stratford, at one intersection in New Hamburg, and for eastbound traffic on the existing highway in Shakespeare at the east limit of the village
- Interchange at Nafziger Road, revised to retain recreational complex soccer fields

In addition, preliminary mitigation measures and strategies to address potential impacts will be presented for review and comment.

Information to be presented at this PIC, including the Selection of Preliminary Design Alternatives Report, will be on the study website, at local municipal offices and at local libraries beginning on July 24, 2013.

PROCESS

The study is following the *Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000) process for a Group A project. Comments received will be considered as the recommended plan is finalized and documented in a Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR). At the time of TESR release, a Notice will be published to explain the review process and identify the locations where the TESR is available for a 60-day public review period.

COMMENTS

Your comments on the information presented at PIC #6 are requested by **October 31, 2013** so they can be considered in the finalization of the recommended plan and the completion of the TESR. Comments may be submitted at the PIC or via the study website at www.7and8corridorstudy.ca.

To obtain additional information, provide comments or to be placed on the study mailing list, please contact:

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Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will be part of the public record. If you have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in this study please contact one of the Study Team members listed above.